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THE
DANTE
SOCIETY



The Dante Society

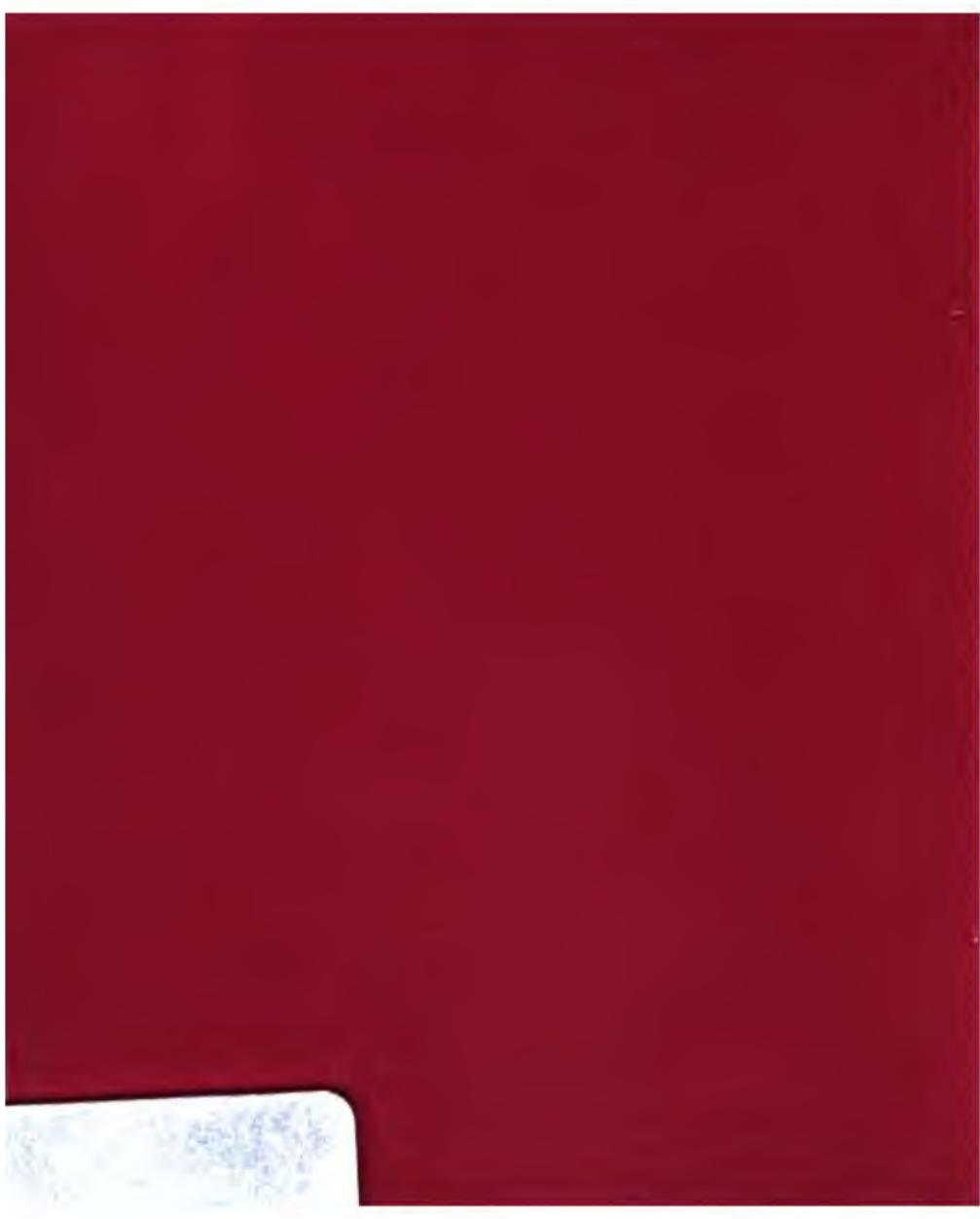
38 CONDUIT STREET

LONDON

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ANNUAL REPORT

1995



The
Dante Society

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ANNUAL REPORT

1905

1. *Chlorophytum comosum* (L.) Willd. (Liliaceae)
Common Name: *Chlorophytum*
Local Name: *Chlorophytum*
Habitat: Commonly found in the open fields, along roadsides, in the grassy areas, and in the open forest areas.
Description: A small, clumped, terrestrial plant. The leaves are linear, flat, and arranged in a dense tuft at the base. The leaf blades are green, with a prominent midrib and some minor veins. The leaf sheath is tightly wrapped around the stem. The inflorescence is a terminal panicle, which is branched and bears numerous small, white flowers. The flowers are hermaphrodite and have six perianth segments. The fruit is a small, round, three-lobed capsule.

The Dante Society

**ANNUAL REPORT read at the MEETING of
June 7th, 1905**

**Held at LORD WINDSOR'S HOUSE
54, Mount Street, W.**

**SIR THEODORE MARTIN, K.C.B., K.C.V.O.
*In the Chair.***

(W)UR Society may be congratulated on another year of steady and successful work. During the year the usual forty FRIDAY READINGS were held and were well attended; that of February 25th being made still more interesting by the reading of a Paper by Mr. CECIL STRONG, M.A., of Exeter College, Oxford.

The following SESSIONAL LECTURES were given before large Meetings of the Society's Members :—

Rev. HENRY THOMAS CART, M.A.

“Dante and the Papacy.”

Commendatore ARTHUR SERENA, J.P., Consul-General, in the Chair.

EDWARD WILBERFORCE.

“The Better Waters of Purgatorio.”

RICHARD GARNETT, C.B., LL.D., in the Chair.

LUIGI RICCI.

“Countess Matilda of Tuscany.”

Rt. Hon. The EARL OF LYTTON, in the Chair.

Rev. W. J. PAYLING WRIGHT, B.A.

“La Lupa Dantesca.”

EDMUND GOSSE, LL.D., in the Chair.

Rev. NEWTON MANT, M.A., F.S.A.

“Italian Architecture in Italian Cities.”

Rt. Hon. LORD SUFFIELD, P.C., G.C.V.O., K.C.B., in the Chair.

Professor GEORGE SAINTSBURY, M.A.

“Dante and the Grand Style.”

ALFRED AUSTIN, Poet Laureate, in the Chair.

Mrs. CRAIGIE (“John Oliver Hobbes.”)

“Plato and Dante.”

Sir THEODORE MARTIN, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., President, in the Chair.

For the information of NEW MEMBERS we give an
alphabetical LIST of LECTURERS and CHARMEN at the
DANTE SOCIETY

SESSIONAL LECTURES.

Alfred Austin, *Poet Laureate*,

John D. Batten, Esq.

H. M. Beatty, M.A., LL.D.

Oscar Browning, M.A.

Rt. Hon. James Bryce, P.C., M.P.

Prof. A. J. Butler, M.A.

Rev. A. B. Boyd-Carpenter, M.A.

Rev. Henry Thomas Cart, M.A.

Rev. H. J. Chaytor, M.A.

His Exc. the Hon. Joseph H. Choate, *American Ambassador*.

Very Rev. W. R. Church, D.D., *Dean of St. Paul's*.

Mrs. Craigie ("John Oliver Hobbes.")

Count Corti, *Italian Ambassador*.

Miss Camilla Croudace.

Andrew S. Currie, M.D., M.A.

Sir George Douglas, Bart.

His Exc. The Marquess of Dufferin and Ava, K.P., P.C.,
G.C.S.I.

Rt. Hon. Sir M. E. Grant-Duff, P.C., G.C.S.I.

Rev. Charles N. Edgington, M.A.

Commander G. C. Frederick, R.N.
Edmund G. Gardner, M.A.
Richard Garnett, C.B., LL.D.
Edmund Gosse, LL.D.
Rev. Canon Leighton Grane, M.A.
Prof. Hall Griffin, B.A.
Maurice Hewlett, Esq.
Ferrers Howell, Esq.
Thomas Hodgkin, D.C.L., Lit.D.
Miss Eleanor Jourdain.
Very Rev. G. W. Kitchin, D.D., *Dean of Durham.*
Sidney Lee, LL.D.
Cavalier R. Dupper Lloyd.
Rt. Hon. & Rt. Rev. Dr. Creighton, *Bishop of London.*
His Exc. the Hon. J. Russell Lowell, *American Minister.*
Rt. Hon. the Earl of Lytton.
Rev. Newton Mant, M.A., F.S.A.
Charles Henry Marten, Esq.
Sir Theodore Martin, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., *President.*
Rev. John T. Mitchell, M.A.
F. D. Mocatta, Esq.
Rev. Canon Edw. Moore, D.D.
Thomas Okey, Esq.
Edward Henry Pember, K.C.
Miss Catherine M. Phillimore.

His Exc. Alberto Pansa, *Italian Ambassador.*
Very Rev. E. H. Plumptre, D.D., *Dean of Wells.*
His Exc. the Baron de Renzis, *Italian Ambassador.*
Luigi Ricci, *Founder of the Society.*
Sir Fred. Lacy Robinson, K.C.B.
Rt. Hon. & Rt. Rev. Dr. Talbot, *Bishop of Southwark.*
Rev. Wm. Henry Rogers, D.D.
Prof. George Saintsbury, M.A.
Commendatore Arthur Serena, J.P. *Consul-General.*
Charles L. Shadwell, LL.D., M.A.
Rev. T. W. Sharpe, C.B., M.A.
Miss Shillington.
Sir William Smith, LL.D.
Ven. Wm. Sinclair, D.D., *Archdeacon of London.*
Cavalier Augusto Sindici.
Mrs. Heinemann-Sindici.
Cecil Strong, Esq., M.A.
Rt. Hon. Lord Suffield, P.C., G.C.V.O., K.C.B.
A. W. Verrall, LL.D., M.A.
Ven. Canon Wilberforce, *Archdeacon of Westminster.*
Edward Wilberforce, *a Master of the Supreme Court.*
Rt. Hon. Lord Windsor, P.C.
Rev. W. J. Payling Wright, B.A.

To this long List may be added the Names of Baron Sidney Sonnino, Very Rev. Sebastian Bowden, Rev. J. F. Hogan, D.D., and Justin H. McCarthy, who have

kindly promised to give Lectures in the forthcoming Session, and that of Signora Leonora Duse, who has also very kindly promised to recite the Episode of Francesca da Rimini.

Our best thanks are due to Lord and Lady Windsor for having placed their splendid Town Mansion at the disposal of the Society for the Annual Meeting; and we hope that other Members will follow their generous example of friendly hospitality.

During the year the Grand Total of MEMBERS has reached the number of 605 from the Foundation of the Society. Among the NEW MEMBERS, to all of whom we extend our heartiest welcome, are:—

H.R.H. The Princess Alexander of Teck, the daughter of the late Duke of Albany, who was the first to honour our Society with Royal Patronage at its formation; H.R.H. Prince Nicholas of Greece; His Exc. the Hon. Whitelaw Reid (American Ambassador); His Exc. the Hon. Henry White (American Ambassador in Rome); His Exc. Stephen Musurus Pasha (Turkish Ambassador); Adeline Duchess of Bedford; The Countess of Lytton; Signor Guglielmo Marconi; Lady F. Legard; Sir Hubert Jerningham; Baron Sidney Sonnino; Giosue Carducci; Chief Justice Sir Henry Bale; Edmund Gosse; Colonel Ciceri; Signor Canziani; Signor Cerasoli; Signora

Centeno; Signora Galimberti; Mrs. Margaret Knowles; Miss Soulsby; Mrs. Landsberg; Mrs. Fagan; Mrs. Turton Norton; Mrs. C. Balfour; Rev. H. T. Cart; Rev. R. Wood-Samuel; Rev. G. F. Hogan. D.D.; Rev. G. T. Wood; Rev. T. S. Crank and George Meredith, who in one of his letters wrote: "I felt myself not only greatly honoured, but very happy indeed to be enrolled as a Member of The Dante Society. Dante and Italy are always in my mind."

We sincerely deplore the loss by death of several Members, among them Dr. George Macdonald, Aubrey de Vere, Dr. Henry P. Gurney, F. D. Mocatta, Rev. T. A. Sharpe, Prof. Willard Fiske, Sir George Glynn Petre, Sir Henry Irving, and the Rev. John Samuel.

The Society has also lost, through their departure from England, the active and powerful support of the Hon. Joseph Louis Janvier, Haytian Minister, and that of the Hon. Joseph H. Choate, late American Ambassador, who took the Chair at one of our Meetings, and praised with eloquent words the work of our Society.

It will interest our Members to know that Miss Eleanor F. Jourdain has obtained the Degree of Docteur de l'Université of Paris, in recognition of the merit of her Lecture on "The Symbolism of the Divine Comedy," given before our Society.

Another Volume of THE DANTE SOCIETY LECTURES is now being printed by the Athenaeum Press, and will be ready in a short time for *free* distribution to all the Members. Besides the Lectures, it will contain also a very interesting Preface by one of our Vice-Presidents, **ALFRED AUSTIN**, Poet Laureate.

Students of Dante's Works living in the Provinces and in the Colonies are invited to form Local Centres as affiliated Branches of the Dante Society. Their work will thus be co-ordinated to that of the Central Society, and they will have the advantage of being visited by Lecturers, who are certified Members of the Dante Society. The Members of all Local Centres, when in London, enjoy the hospitality of the Society, and are welcome guests to our Sessional Lectures.

During last year several Members when travelling in Italy enjoyed the hospitality of the SOCIETA DANTESCA ITALIANA, of which the FOUNDER of the DANTE SOCIETY is Socio Promotore.

The RECEIPT and EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT for the Year, duly Audited by Mr. Arthur Banister, F.C.A., the Honorary Accountant, and by Mr. Wm. H. Rickatson, the Honorary Treasurer, is open to the Inspection of MEMBERS at the Society's Offices.

The following letters from the Marquis Pietro Torrigiani, President of the Società Dantesca Italiana, and from the Sindaco of Ravenna, are additional proofs of the usefulness of our Society, even in our ~~country~~ country.

SOCIETÀ DANTESCA ITALIANA

LIBRERIA LAURENZIANA

BIBLIOTECA LAURENZIANA.

FIRENZE, 8 Giugno, 1905.

ILLMO. SIGNOR PROF. LUIGI RICCI,

LONDRA.

Le annunzio con grato animo il ricevimento della lettera della S. V. Illma. e La prego di accogliere i vivi ringraziamenti del Consiglio di Presidenza per la sua adesione come SOCIO PROMOTORE alla SOCIETÀ DANTESCA ITALIANA.

Voglia, Illmo. Signore, accogliere i sensi della mia viva considerazione.

IL SEGRETARIO, IL PRESIDENTE,
CONTE G. L. PASSEIRINI. PIETRO TORRIGIANI.

MUNICIPIO DI RAVENNA

(Segreteria).

Avendo l'alto onore di rappresentare il Municipio di Ravenna, mando alla S. V. Illma. i più caldi ringraziamenti per tutto quanto ha fatto la benemerita Società Dantesca Londinese in onore del Divino Poeta; e prego la S. V. Illma. a rendersi interprete presso la Società da Lei fondata de' sensi di profonda gratitudine che verso la Società stessa professano i Ravennati e quanti nutrono affetto pel nostro Massimo Poeta.

IL REGIO COMMISSARIO,

R. MANZINI.

MUNICIPIO DI RAVENNA

(Segreteria).

No. 6,798

RAVENNA, 28 Settembre, 1905.

Mi prego di dichiarare alla S. V. essere pervenuta a questo Municipio la somma di Lire 100.80, accompagnata da lettera in data 1 Settembre, 1905, della S. V., quale Contribuzione data da codesta Spettabile Dante Society in favore della nostra Sala Dantesca. Questa Oblazione, insieme alle altre largite formano un Totale di Lire 350.10.

Io prego la S. V. di voler rendersi interprete presso codesta illustre Società Dantesca de' miei sentimenti di viva gratitudine, e di aggradire l'espressione della mia sincera considerazione.

IL SINDACO
FERDINANDO GALLINA.

THE LIBRARY.

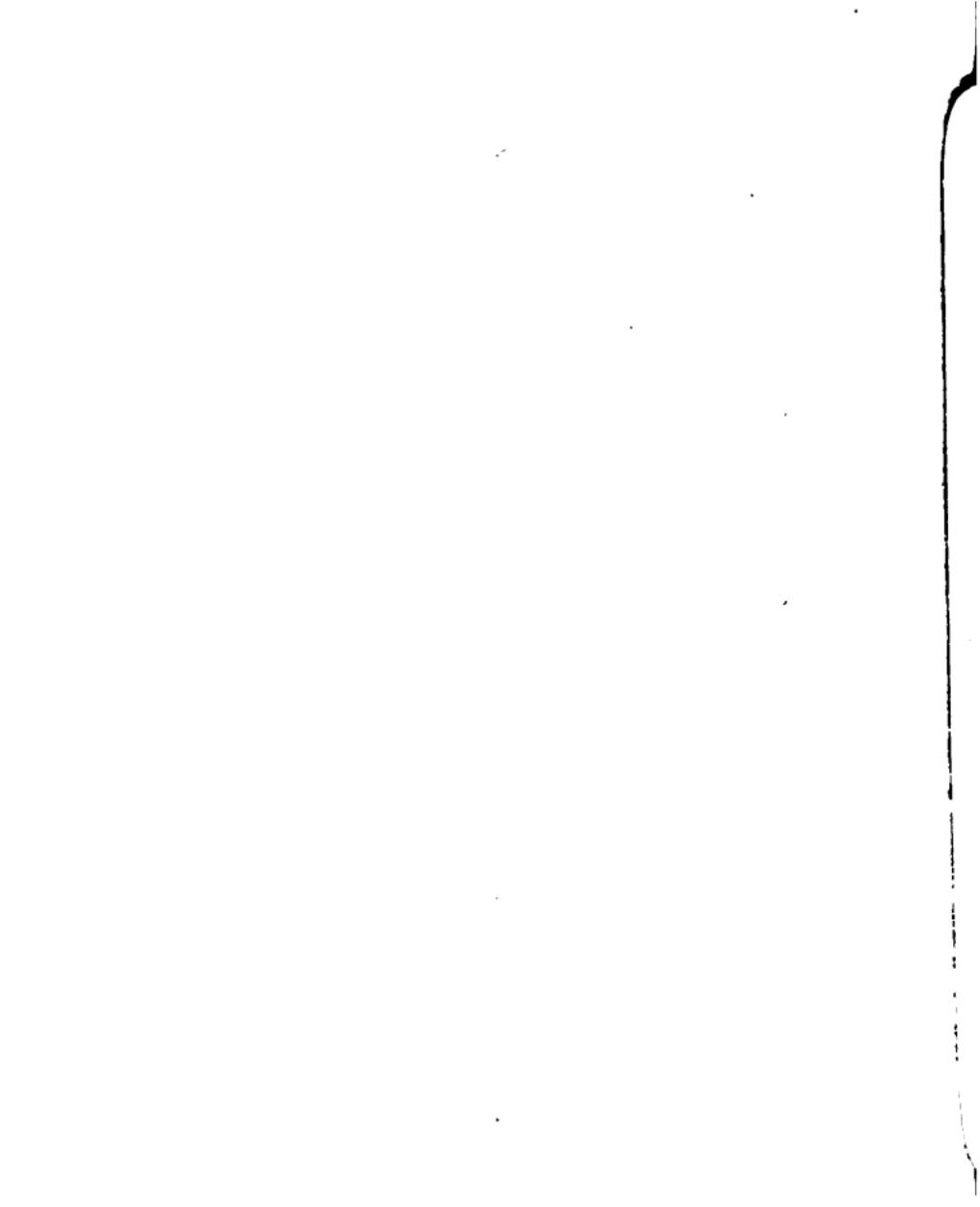
The furnishing of the Library has now been completed, and we have prepared room for many other Volumes, to render it still more useful to all those Members who avail themselves of the privilege of consulting the works collected in it.

400 Volumes were added to our Library during last year. Among these we have acquired a

unique and priceless illuminated copy of the *Divina Commedia*, the artistic illustrations of which would have rejoiced the heart of our Poet, who would have repeated on its pages the high praise he gave to the “carte, Che pennelleggia Franco Bolognese.”

The very limited amount of money that we can afford to spend in buying books should be an inducement to some of our wealthy Members to subscribe to our Library Fund. The fact that, owing to the liberality of a single individual, the *Dante Library* in the United States contains over 7,000 Volumes, should awaken in friendly emulation the generosity of our Members. It is only a question of money; because, if we had enough of it, we could soon make our Library even more complete than that of which America is so justly proud.

Professor Bryce, one of our Vice-Presidents, said that: “It is very difficult to induce Englishmen to subscribe liberally to purely literary undertakings.” Another of our Vice-Presidents, the Lord Bishop of Ripon, has, however, proved that such an opinion of the generous liberality of Englishmen is at least old-fashioned, by sending a Subscription to our Library Fund, and setting an example which we hope all our Members will haster to follow.





PATRONESS:
H.R.H. PRINCESS CHRISTIAN.

PRESIDENT:
SIR THEODORE MARTIN, K.C.B.

WEDNESDAY, November 15th, 1905, at 8.30 p.m., at 45 HARLEY STREET W.

The Rev. NEWTON MANT, M.A., F.S.A.
VICAR OF HENDON, N.W.
WILL LECTURE ON

"ITALIAN ARCHITECTURE & PICTORIAL ART IN UMBRIA & THE MARCHES"
(Perugia, Città di Castello, Gubbio, Assisi, Spello, Monte Fulco, Spoleto,
Macerata, Fano, Urbino, &c.)

LANTERN SLIDES BY ALINARI, BROGI, ANDERSON.

COMMENDATORE LAZZARO ALLATINI
CONSUL GENERAL OF ITALY
IN THE CHAIR.

At the next Meeting, January 31st, 1906, will be read a Lecture by
HIS EXC. BARON SIDNEY SONNINO

38 Conduit Street W.

LUIGI RICCI
Honorary Secretary

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